Case 5:18-cv-05291-GJP Document 1 Filed 12/07/18 Page 1 of 14

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil de	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FO	RM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
Guillermo Lopez				Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Lehigh (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Lehigh (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) John S. Harrison and Kevin H. Conrad Broughal & DeVito, L.L.P. 38 W. Market Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018; (610) 865-366			4	Attorneys (If Known) Unknown.					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIP	AL PARTIES			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	e00e	(For Diversity Cases Only) PT en of This State		Incorporated or Pri		r Defenda PTF □ 4	ant) DEF □ 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🗇 :	2 Incorporated and P of Business In A		5	□ 5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗆 .	3 Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
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CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR: 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	RTY	DEFEITURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 10 Other Labor Litigation 11 Employee Retirement Income Security Act 1 IMMIGRATION 12 Naturalization Application 15 Other Immigration Actions	422 Ap 423 Wi 28 PROP 820 Co 830 Pat 840 Tra SOCIA* 861 HI. 862 Bla 863 DI* 864 SS 865 RS FEDE 870 Ta or 871 IR: 26	peal 28 USC 158 thdrawal USC 157 ERTY RIGHTS pyrights ent ent - Abbreviated w Drug Application idemark L. SECURITY A (1395ff) lok Lung (923) WC/DIWW (405(g)) ID Title XVI	OTHER 3 375 False Cla 376 Qui Tam 3729(a)) 400 State Rea 410 Antitrue 430 Banks ar 450 Commer 460 Deportat 470 Racketee Corrupt (480 Consume 490 Cable/Sa 850 Securitie Exchang 890 Other Sta 891 Agriculti 893 Environn 895 Freedom Act 896 Arbitrati 899 Adminis	aims Act (31 USC) apportions ad Banking ce ion or Influenc Organizati et TV ss/Commo ge atutory Ac ural Acts nental Mat of Inforn on trative Pre ciew or App Decision tionality o	ment g ced and ions dities/ ctions tters nation ocedure peal of
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Case 5:18-cv-05291-CNIPED STOCKEN PIRTRICF ICOUR 2/07/18 Page 2 of 14 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Defendant:	Address of Plaintiff: 1404 Budd Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 206, Allentown, PA 18103-3813 Part	4504 Labiah Obash Quita 000 Allastasan DA 40400 0040				
Case Number:	1501 Lobigh Stroot Suito 206 Allentown DA 19102 2012				
Case Number:					
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No case filed by the same individual? 1. Indemnity Contract, the within case is in this court except as noted above. 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Attorney-at-Labi / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney-at-Labi / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney-LD. # (if applicable) 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Assault, Defamation Attributs Attributs Section 1 in this court except as noted above. 2. FIELA Section Cases: 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury Attributs Section Cases (Please specify): 3. Assault, Defamation Section Cases (Please specify): 4. Marine Personal Injury (Please specify): 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury (Please specify): 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Civil Rights Section Cases (Please specify): 8. Products Liability Arbestos Section Cases (Please specify): ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)	RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
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Attorney-to-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney-to-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Same as a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No					
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this court except as noted above. DATE: 12/07/2018					
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ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) John S. Harrison , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:					
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) I, John S. Harrison , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:	10. Social Security Review Cases (Please specify):	9			
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) John S. Harrison , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:					
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) John S. Harrison , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:					
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:	ENDER AND A DECEMBER OF MALE AND A STREET AN				
exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:	I,, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:				
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
	Relief other than monetary damages is sought.				
DATE: 12/07/2018 53864					
Attorney Lat-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable) NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P, 38.	DATE.				

Case 5:18-cv-05291-GJP Document 1 Filed 12/07/18 Page 3 of 14

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

GUILLERMO LOPEZ		CIVIL ACTION		
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE VALLEY, INC.	LEHIGH :	NO.		
plaintiff shall complete a Car filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the e designation, that defendant s	se Management Track Designer a copy on all defendants. (So event that a defendant does not hall, with its first appearance ties, a Case Management Track.)	Reduction Plan of this court, couns nation Form in all civil cases at the time es \$1:03 of the plan set forth on the renot agree with the plaintiff regarding es, submit to the clerk of court and ser ack Designation Form specifying the ned.	me of everse g said ve on	
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	OLLOWING CASE MANA	GEMENT TRACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases l	(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.			
	requesting review of a decision of a decision of a decision of the security of	on of the Secretary of Health Benefits.	()	
(c) Arbitration – Cases requ	ired to be designated for arbi	tration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()	
(d) Asbestos – Cases involve exposure to asbestos.	ing claims for personal injur	y or property damage from	()	
		ial or intense management by		
			()	
(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not fall into ar		(x)	
12/07/2018 Date	Attorney-at-law	John S. Harrison, Esquin Attorney for Plaintiff		
(610) 865–3664	(610) 865-0969	johnharrison@broughal-		
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

GUILLERMO LOPEZ,)
Plaintiff) Civil Action
v.) No
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY, INC.,)))
Defendant) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Guillermo Lopez, by and through his counsel, Broughal & DeVito, L.L.P. files this Complaint against Defendant, Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley, Inc., and in support thereof avers the following:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This employment-discrimination action arises, and asserts claims, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq. and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, as amended, 43 P.S. § 951 et seq. ("PHRA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 over Plaintiff's federal-law Title VII claims.
- 3. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over Plaintiff's state-law PHRA claim because it arises from the same events as Plaintiff's federal claims.

4. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Defendant resides in this judicial district, and § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial portion of the events giving rise to this action occurred in this district.

PROCEDURAL PREREQUISITES

- 5. Plaintiff dual-filed a Charge of Discrimination, No. 530-2018-04594, which was received by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") on June 28, 2018.
- 6. The EEOC issued to Plaintiff on August 13, 2018 a Notice of Right to Sue; this action is filed within ninety (90) days of that Notice.

FACTS

- 7. Plaintiff, Guillermo Lopez ("Plaintiff" and/or "Lopez"), is an adult male individual who resides at 1404 Budd Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018.
- 8. Defendant, Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. ("Defendant" and/or "CISLV") is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation with its registered address at 1628-48 West Chew Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102, and its principle place of business at 1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 206, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103-3813.
 - 9. Defendant employed more than fifteen (15) people at all material times.
- 10. Plaintiff Lopez is Hispanic and, thus, is a member of a protected class for purposes of Title VII and the PHRA, based upon his race.
- 11. Plaintiff is Puerto Rican and, thus, is a member of a protected class for purposes of Title VII and the PHRA based upon his national origin (Puerto Rican).

12. Plaintiff is bi-lingual: he is fluent in English and Spanish.

Plaintiff's Employment at CISLV

- 13. Plaintiff became employed by CISLV in September 2014.
- 14. Prior to becoming an employee of CISLV, Plaintiff served on the Board of Directors for CISLV.
 - 15. Plaintiff worked for CISLV as a Family/Parent Liaison.
- 16. Plaintiff was assigned to the Easton Area School District ("EASD") and placed at Paxinosa Elementary School.
- 17. Approximately three quarters (75%) of students at Paxinosa Elementary School ("Paxinosa") are members of a racial minority.
- 18. A majority of the minority students at Paxinosa Elementary School are Hispanic.

<u>Discriminatory Treatment and Internal Complaint of Discrimination by</u> <u>Plaintiff Against Supervisor</u>

- 19. Plaintiff's direct supervisor was Jessica Baker, Director of Northampton County Operations for Defendant CISLV.
 - 20. Ms. Baker is Caucasian,
- 21. The executive leadership at Defendant CISLV was entirely Caucasian during Plaintiff's employment at CISLV.
- 22. Ms. Baker treated Plaintiff differently and less favorably than other non-Hispanic and/or non-Puerto Rican employees under her supervision.
- 23. Ms. Baker discriminated against and treated Plaintiff more harshly than other non-Hispanic and/or non-Puerto Rican employees by, among other things:

- a. Assigning Plaintiff to work at Paxinosa because he was Puerto Rican:
- Assigning Plaintiff to an office and desk at Paxinosa because he was Puerto Rican;
- c. Purposefully embarrassing Plaintiff in front of others in the workplace by questioning him about matters that did not relate to Plaintiff (or his work), but did pertain to the others, in order to make him appear uninformed;
- d. Falsely accusing Plaintiff of not working during work hours; and
- e. Requiring Plaintiff to email her every time that he came and went from his office.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Ms. Baker did not make non-Hispanic and/or non-Puerto Rican employees work at a particular school because of their race; perform irrelevant tasks; e-mail her every time they arrived and left their offices; nor did she falsely accuse them of not working during work hours.
- 25. In the Fall of 2016, Plaintiff complained about Ms. Baker's discriminatory conduct to CISLV's Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations ("EVP"), Michael McCrosstin (hereinafter, the "Discrimination Complaint") who is Caucasian.
- 26. The day after he made the Discrimination Complaint to EVP McCrosstin, Plaintiff was accosted by Ms. Baker about his Discrimination Complaint.
- 27. After accosting him in Fall 2016, Ms. Baker negatively changed her behavior toward Plaintiff by stopping virtually all in-person communication with

him, limiting telephone conversations to work matters, and treating him as though he was an outcast.

28. Ms. Baker's behavior toward Plaintiff after she accosted him about his Discrimination Complaint was less favorable than her treatment of non-Hispanic and/non-Puerto Rican employees. For example, she would communicate with Caucasian employees in person and would talk pleasantly about personal non-work matters.

Plaintiff's Job Performance and Promised Position

- 29. Notwithstanding Ms. Baker's treatment of Plaintiff, Plaintiff performed his job duties well at all times during his employment at Defendant CISLV.
- 30. During 2017, in particular, Plaintiff received favorable recognition from EASD staff regarding his work and efforts.
- 31. Additionally, during 2017, the Chief Executive Officer of Defendant CISLV, Timothy Mulligan, communicated with Plaintiff about Plaintiff taking a position within CISLV where he would serve as a cultural competency/anti-discrimination trainer/advisor across the entire CISLV organization (the "Training Position").
- 32. In retaliation for the Discrimination Complaint and because he is Puerto Rican, Ms. Baker refused to advance Plaintiff into the Training Position.

Discriminatory Treatment, Discipline, and Termination of Employment

33. Plaintiff took pre-approved leave to travel to Puerto Rico in October 2017 to provide volunteer aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

- 34. Following his volunteer trip to Puerto Rico, Plaintiff was disciplined and required to take "contemplation leave" in November 2017 for transporting a Paxinosa student and family, who missed the bus, to school in his car. The family had no other means to get the student to school.
- 35. Defendant's management informed employees in comparable positions to Plaintiff that they should be creative with transportation challenges and—upon information and belief—did not discipline white employees who transported school children in their cars.
- 36. Ms. Baker, who is Caucasian and not Puerto Rican, transported families for CISLV business before she became a supervisor.
- 37. The only other Hispanic employee of Defendant CISLV who was in a comparable staff position was also disciplined for transporting a student in his car.
- 38. Upon information and belief, other non-Hispanic and/or non-Puerto Rican employees of Defendant transport students and/or parents in personal vehicles in connection with their work for Defendant and are not disciplined for doing so.
- 39. On or about January 20, 2018, Plaintiff established a GoFundMe.com fundraising page for a model-car program for fifth graders at Paxinosa ("Model Car Program") that Plaintiff was attempting to establish and build up, and for which he needed funding.
- 40. Ms. Baker was aware of the Model Car Program from its inception in September 2017, when Plaintiff discussed the proposed program with her, as his direct supervisor.

- 41. Ms. Baker stated to Plaintiff that EVP McCrosstin would never fund the proposed program.
- 42. In response, Plaintiff told Ms. Baker that he would find the money; Ms. Baker never told Plaintiff that he could not fund the Model Car Program by fundraising.
- 43. Plaintiff set up the online fundraising page on or about January 20, 2018.
 - 44. The online fundraising page was active for one (1) weekend.
- 45. Ms. Baker instructed Plaintiff to take down the fundraising page on or about January 22, 2018.
 - 46. Plaintiff complied with Ms. Baker's instruction.
- 47. Before setting up the Model Car Program and Go Fund Me page, neither Defendant CISLV, nor Ms. Baker in particular, told him he was not allowed to do so, or that CISLV policy prohibited it.
- 48. Plaintiff was disciplined and placed on administrative leave on January 23, 2018 and accused of taking money from the fundraising page for his own personal use—that allegation was false and Plaintiff denied the allegation when it was made.
- 49. While on the January disciplinary leave, Plaintiff complained to EVP McCrosstin that he was subjected to a hostile work environment.

- 50. Upon information and belief, Defendant CISLV hired a Caucasian, non-Hispanic, non-Puerto Rican individual to work at Paxinosa approximately one (1) week after placing Plaintiff on disciplinary administrative leave.
- 51. Defendant CISLV did not return Plaintiff to work from disciplinary administrative leave.
- 52. On or about March 6, 2018, Plaintiff was called into a meeting with EVP McCrosstin.
- 53. During that meeting, Mr. McCrosstin told Plaintiff that his employment was terminated.
- 54. Defendant did not tell Plaintiff why he was fired during the termination meeting.
- 55. After his termination and in response to his application for unemployment compensation benefits, Defendant falsely and pretextually stated that Plaintiff was terminated for "Disruptive Influence—violation of standards of conduct."
- 56. An unemployment hearing was held on March 10, 2018, which
 Respondent failed to attend despite notice and its contesting Plaintiff's application
 for unemployment benefits.

<u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATION OF TITLE VII</u>

57. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference all foregoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length.

- 58. Plaintiff is a member of a protected class based upon his race (Hispanic) and national origin (Puerto Rican).
 - 59. Plaintiff was qualified for his position with Defendant.
- 60. Plaintiff engaged in statutorily-protected conduct by raising internal complaints of discrimination based on his race and national origin.
 - 61. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment actions caused by Defendant.
- 62. Defendant engaged in additional post-termination discriminatory and retaliatory conduct by contesting Plaintiff's application for unemployment compensation benefits with a false reason for his termination.
- 63. Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights under Title VII by subjecting him to discriminatory treatment and discipline because of his race and national origin, and by subjecting him to retaliation for raising the Discrimination Complaint against his supervisor.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment in his favor and against Defendant with an award as follows: back pay, in an amount to be determined at trial; front pay, in an amount to be determined at trial; compensatory damages for Plaintiff's non-economic damages including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, emotional distress and damage to his professional reputation, in an amount to be determined at trial; punitive damages, in an amount to be determined at trial; attorney fees and costs; and any other relief this Honorable Court deems necessary and just.

COUNT II VIOLATION OF PHRA

- 64. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference all foregoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length.
- 65. Defendant CISLV violated Plaintiffs rights under the PHRA by subjecting him to discriminatory treatment and discipline because of his race and national origin, and by subjecting him to retaliation for raising the Discrimination Complaint against his supervisor.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment in his favor and against Defendant in an award as follows: back pay, in an amount to be determined at trial; front pay, in an amount to be determined at trial; compensatory damages for Plaintiff's non-economic damages including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, emotional distress and damage to his professional reputation, in an amount to be determined at trial attorney fees and costs; and any other relief this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

66. Plaintiff requests a trial by jury on all claims and issues so triable.

By:

BROUGHAL & DEVITO, L.L.P.

Date: December 7, 2018

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